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Mar. 27, 2009

Ravalli County Commissioners

Dear County Commissioners,

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Having been involved with planning for the Ravalli County Airport for many years I am well aware of the different options for placement of the runway. It is obvious that this planning has taken much too long thereby increasing all costs considerably.

The only option that makes total sense is #4. It provides the County with an airport that will handle the current demands plus future demands for many years to come. It also will better meet the needs of the Forest Service for this area. It provides a margin of safety for the Life Flight aircraft. It provides a margin of safety for the jet powered aircraft that currently use the airport. Having a longer runway will allow some of the jet aircraft to take on more fuel for longer range flights, thereby providing additional revenue for the County and the State.

Some objectors to lengthening the runway seem to think this will allow commercial passenger aircraft to use our airport. Unfortunately these people are very unaware of the requirements that must be met for the use of an airport for commercial passenger service. This seems to be a scare tactic employed by these people, because this can never happen at the Ravalli County Airport.

Option #4 will also relieve the County of the very costly repair or replacement of the present main taxiway which is becoming nearly unsafe.

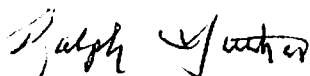
It will add additional space for the County to lease for more hangars. It will also allow for nearly continuous use of the current facilities while the new runway is being constructed.

One of the other benefits that can be planned during construction is walking paths which have been sought after by many of our citizens.

Moving the runway to the north 400 feet will provide some noise relief for those south of the airport although it may impact those to the north a little.

It should be deducted that option #4 will be the only option to provide the County with a safe well equipped airport to meet the current and future needs of the citizens and businesses without spending money on halfway fixes. It will also continue to provide an important part of the State and Federal transportation system.

Very sincerely,



Ralph Luther 961-3663